

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph at page 2, beginning at line 1 as follows:

Whatever may be the specific physical realization, network switches of this general kind typically perform the same ~~basis~~basic switching process. They include a database, sometimes called a forwarding database or look-up database, which is accessed in response to address data (typically a destination address in the header of a packet) in order to retrieve 'associated' or 'forwarding' data which identifies for any given packet the port or ports ~~from~~to which the packet (or a copy thereof) is to be forwarded. For this purpose it is customary when the packet is received to place it in temporary storage (such as a FIFO defined in some respective memory space) while the header including the address data of the packet is subjected to the look-up process.

Please amend the paragraph at page 9, beginning at line 7 as follows:

Merely for the sake of completeness the module shown in Figure 2 includes a management logic block ~~23~~24. The management circuits form no part of the present invention and will not be further described.

Please amend the paragraph at page 15, beginning at line 17 as follows:

The look-up engine waits for 'NPDone' to be asserted (stage 405) before performing any further operation in relation to the packet. This is an indication to the

look-up engine that the network processor has finished modifying the packet and the port bitmasks and control is handed back to the look-up engine. The bitmask is clocked out, (stage 406) by the look-up engine. Depending on whether the replicate flag is set (stage 407), the look-up engine interfaces with the receive circuitry as usual, passing on the final port bitmask. If the replicate flag has not been set the last three stages are repeated.

Please amend the title at page 21, before claim 1 as follows:

ClaimsWHAT IS CLAIMED IS: